

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OPR-02 USSS-00 SY-10 CPR-02

DRC-01 /151 W

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R 101035Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6929

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 4119

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PFOR RO UR

SUBJECT: TOUR D'HORIZON WITH SOVIET POLITICAL COUNSELLOR

1. SOVIET POLITICAL COUNSELLOR PESHCHERSKY CAME IN ON NOVEMBER 9 FOR PERIODIC HOUR-LONG TOUR D'HORIZON. JUST ANNOUNCED CEAUSESCU TRIP TO US WAS MAIN FOCUS OF PESHCHERSKY'S INTEREST WITH ABBA EBAN VISIT A CLOSE SECOND. I GAVE HIM GENERAL SKETCH OF CEAUSESCU ITINERARY AND SOME IDEA OF POSSIBLE AGREEMENTS.

2. OTHER CISITS. PESHCHERSKY PROBED FOR CONNECTION OF
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US VISIT WITH POSSIBLE CEAUSESCU VISITS TO ARGENTINA

(UNLIKELY TO OCCUR UNTIL NEXT YEAR), GREECE (SEPTTEL) AND ALGERIA (RUMORED FEELERS HAVE OCCURRED). HE REFERRED TO PROBABLE TITO STATE VISIT TO ROMANIA IN LATE DECEMBER (YUGOSLAVS TELL US THAT NO DATES FIXED; LATE DECEMBER OR JANUARY IS LIKELY) AND TO VISIT BY KOREAN LEADER KIM IL-SONG IN "LATE DECEMBER OR EARLY JANUARY." EXACT TIMING OF KIM'S TRIP IS UNCERTAIN SINCE KOREAN LEADER WILL MAKE GRAND TOUR OF SEVERAL EAST EUROPEAN CAPITALS, INCLUDING MOSCOW. ON SOVIET-ROMANIAN AGENDA IS NOTHING MORE THAN SOVIET PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION IN LATE NOVEMBER AND VISIT BY DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER RODIONOV WHICH HAS BEEN POSTPONED SOMEWHAT, SAID PESHCHERSKY, TO REFUTE ANY ERRONEOUS SPECULATION THAT IT COULD BE CONNECTED WITH ABBA EBAN TRIP. ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE BREZHNEV TRIP, SOURCE WAS EVEN COOLER THAN USUAL. NOT ONLY WAS 1973 OUT, OF COURSE, BUT PESHCHERSKY SEEMED DUBIOUS THAT TRIP WOULD OCCUR IN 1974. HE CLAIMED THAT CEAUSESCU HAD RE-EXTENDED INVITATION TO BREZHNEV DURING CRIMEA MEETING BUT BREZHNEV HAD MERELY ACCEPTED "IN PRINCIPLE" AND PUT OFF ANY REAL COMMITMENT INDEFINITELY.

3. MIDDLE EAST. PESHCHERSKY, NOT SURPRISINGLY, RAN DOWN EBAN'S VISIT AS OF NO CONSEQUENCE. VISIT HAD BEEN VERY VALUABLE TO ISRAEL AS A BREAK IN ITS ISOLATION AND AS AFFIRMATION OF SUPPORT FOR ISRAELI "DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS" LINE BUT, FOR ROMANIA, IT WAS SIMPLY ANOTHER DISPLAY OF ROMANIA'S TENDENCY FOR OSTENTATION AND GRANDE-STANDING. I TOOK LINE SIMILAR TO ONE MADE TO ME BY THOUGHTFUL ROMANIAN THAT ROMANIAN MOTIVES HAD BEEN LONG-TERM ONES OF PROVIDING ALTERNATE CHANNEL OF GOOD OFFICES IF BOTH SIDES DESIRED IT IN FUTURE AND IF OTHER EFFORTS WERE STYMIED. MEETING WITH ARABS HERE COULD HAVE BEEN USEFUL BUT NO ONE HAD REALLY EXPECTED THAT TO OCCUR NOW. PESHCHERSKY, AS USUAL, RETREATED INTO STANCE OF THOUGHTFUL AND DISPASSIONATE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GOR GOOD INTENTIONS BUT IDEA OF ATTEMPTING TO RIDICULE ROMANIAN MIDDLE EAST GESTURES WAS APPARENT AS IT HAS BEEN WITH OTHER SOVIETS AND SOVIET FOLLOWERS HERE. PESHCHERSKY DID DENY STRONGLY ANY SOVIET PRESSURE AGAINST EBAN VISIT. HE REFERRED TO SOVIET AMBASSADOR DROZDENKO'S OCTOBER 31 CALL ON CEAUSESCU IN THIS CONNECTION, DENYING "RUMORS" THAT DROZDENKO HAD OPPOSED OR EVEN COMMENTED ON CONFIDENTIAL

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AN EBAN VISIT (HE SAID NOTHING ABOUT THE RUMORS OF SOVIET OPPOSITION TO GOR PARTICIPATION IN UNEF). PESHCHERSKY CLAIMED THAT DROZDENKO'S CALL WAS SOLELY TO BRING CEAUSESCU UP TO DATE ON SOVIET-US DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST AND WAS FAITHFUL TO SOVIET-US UNDERSTANDINGS OF WHAT SHOULD BE TOLD TO OTHER PARTIES.

4. WARSAW PACT MEETINGS. PESHCHERSKY ACKNOWLEDGED RECENT

WP MEETINGS AT THE DEPUTY MINISTER LEVEL IN BERLIN AND PRAGUE. HE SAID THE PRAGUE MEETING WAS A ROUTINE ONE TO ARRANGE THE 1974 PROGRAM FOR TRAINING, MANEUVERS, ETC. ANOTHER MILITARY MEETING WAS "POSSIBLE" LATER THIS YEAR TO WORK OUT ANY UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS BUT WAS "UNLIKELY" SINCE THE PRAGUE MEETING HAD PROBABLY BEEN SUFFICIENT. HE HAD "HEARD" THAT A WP CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING WOULD OCCUR AROUND EARLY DECEMBER AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL BUT HE QUICKLY ADDED A CLAIM THAT SOVIET EMBASSIES WERE NOT FULLY PRIVY TO WARSAW PACT INFORMATION.

5. ROMANIAN INTERNAL. PESHCHERSKY AND I AGREED THAT ROMANIAN INTERNAL SCENE REMAINED GENERALLY QUIET AND DULL AS IT HAS BEEN FOR MORE THAN SIX MONTHS. HE CLAIMED SOME INTERNAL CONCERN BEING EXPRESSED OVER ECONOMIC PLAN SHORTFALLS IN SOME SECTORS BUT NOTHING SERIOUS. HE SAID RIVALRY BETWEEN PARTY SECRETARIES BURTICA AND POPESCU IN PROPAGANDA-EDUCATION-IDEOLOGY AREA WAS CONTINUING AND THAT BURTICA HAD PROPOSED THE CREATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENTAL BODY, WHICH HE WOULD HEAD, THAT WOULD PARALLEL POPESCU'S COMMITTEE FOR SOCIALIST EDUCATION AND CULTURE. HE HAD NO DETAILS. HE HAD HEARD, LIKE MANY OF US, THAT A CC PLENUM HAD
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